



# **A Blueprint for Action**

## **September 2008 - September 2010**

**Our Mission:** We build a culture of service by providing vision and resources to strengthen communities through volunteerism.

**Our Message:** Changing lives . . . through a year of service (AmeriCorps)  
... by connecting students with service (Learn and Serve)  
... two at a time (Mentor Michigan)  
... by recognizing heroes (GSA)  
... by engaging people in service (MCSC)

---

The Michigan Community Service Commission has identified the strategies below to achieve the three goals developed from our mission statement. Specific activities are connected with each strategy and will engage our commissioners, staff, grantees, and partners in working together to build stronger communities.

### **Provide Vision**

**We provide leadership to support, promote, and expand volunteerism.**

- **Promote** volunteering and service by all people to instill a lifelong ethic of service.
- **Provide expertise** in volunteering, service-learning, and mentoring.
- **Recognize** programs and volunteers throughout the state.
- **Maximize** relationships between public, private, and nonprofit sectors.
- **Champion** the work of national service.

### **Provide Resources**

**We secure and deliver resources to expand programming and excellence in volunteering and service.**

- **Secure and expand** diversified funding for AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve, Mentor Michigan, Volunteer Investment Grants (VIG), and other volunteer initiatives.
- **Invest** in communities through quality/impact focused grantmaking.
- **Train, support, and evaluate** grantees and disseminating best practices.
- **Develop and share** resources with national service and volunteer programs.
- **Utilize** quality program standards to help programs achieve success.
- **Develop and support** advisory boards and networks to build shared leadership.
- **Utilize** data-driven decision making.
- **Demonstrate** the return on investment.

### **Strengthen Communities**

**We focus on the critical community needs identified at the local, state, and national levels.**

- **Recruit and engage** Michiganians of all ages in meaningful service, including baby boomers.
- **Increase the capacity of mentoring programs** to serve children in Michigan including children aging out of foster care and children of incarcerated parents.
- **Champion national service programs** addressing critical community needs such as protecting the environment, promoting literacy (i.e. closing the achievement gap at the 3rd grade level), expanding mentoring, advancing disaster preparedness, and providing affordable housing.
- **Encourage educational leaders to use service-learning** to build relationships and prepare students to be fully engaged community members.
- **Foster programming that meets emerging community needs** such as high school drop out prevention and recovery.